Finance, Government of India, for meeting the criteria under which the assistance was sought. The same has been communicated to the State Government.

(ii) **Bio-diversity Management in Etawah District of U.P.:—** State Government has been informed that the project cost is very small and hence unlikely to be picked up by any external donor and advised to submit the components/ activities under on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme (C.S.S.).

(iii) **Agro Forestry in U.P.:—** State Government has been advised to examine the possibility of including the components under another project proposal "Natural Resource Management and Poverty Alleviation in U.P."

(iv) **Natural Resources Management & Poverty Alleviation project in U.P.—** As per (iii) above.

(v) **Uttar Pradesh Forestry Project-Phase-II:—** The proposal was posed for possible external assistance from the World Bank but no response has been received. The State Government has been requested to revise the proposal.

**Environmental Clearance for Uranium Mining and Processing Plant at Nalgonda**

536. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Atomic Energy has submitted a proposal for environmental clearance to its proposed Uranium Mining and processing plant at Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when such proposal was received in his Ministry; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated on the proposal so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment and Forests has received a proposal from M/s Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. seeking environmental clearance only for mining of Uranium in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The above proposal was received on 08.06.2005.

(c) As per procedure the proposal is awaiting appraisal by the Expert Committee (Mining) constituted by this Ministry.

**Felling of forest wood**

†537. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that valuable forest wood is being felled and is being exported despite a ban on the same during the last few years which is adversely affecting environment;

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down for conservation of forests and action taken for violation of such guidelines;

(c) the quantum of wood exported during the last three years along with names of countries to which this wood has been exported; and

(d) the steps being taken to check the felling of forest wood and maintaining balance of environment in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. However sporadic incidents of illicit felling of trees are reported from time to time in different parts of the country. As per the State of Forest Report 2003, the forest and tree cover in the country is 23.68% of the geographical area of the country as against the year 2001 when it was 23.03%.

(b). Legal provisions under Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, there-under are in place and action for violation is taken in accordance with them.

(c) Details of wood exported during last three years are as under:—

| Year | Volume of wood exported (cubic metres) | Countries to which wood has been exported |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 32300 | France, Maldives, Nepal, Ghana, Columbia, Switzerland, USA, Belgium, Qatar, UAE, Czech Republic, Netherland, UK, Canada, Japan, Honkong, Malaysia |
| 2002-03 | 13270 | |
| 2003-04 | 9830 | |

The above table shows that the magnitudes of wood export from India is very small.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.